Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

Corrected Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a first class mail piece tracking provider to provide to a plurality of users, tracking of individual outbound first class mail pieces using a computer-based postage system, said method comprising:

receiving from a postal authority, a mailing subscriber identifier assigned by the postal authority, the mailing subscriber identifier corresponding to the first class mail piece tracking provider, the mailing subscriber identifier corresponding to an authorization by the postal authority for tracking first class mailings by the first class mail piece tracking provider;

receiving from a user, a request to mail a particular first class mail piece to a delivery address, wherein the request from the user to mail the particular first class mail piece comprises an indication by the user to provide tracking of the particular first class mail piece;

determining a delivery address identifier corresponding to the delivery address;

determining a next available mailing identifier for which a combination of a destination tracking service type, the mailing subscriber identifier, the next available mailing identifier, and the delivery address identifier corresponding to the delivery address, would trackably identify the particular first class mail piece during a particular period of time;

assigning [[an]]a first class mail piece tracking identifier to [[a]]the particular first class mail piece, wherein [[said]]the first class mail piece tracking identifier uniquely trackably identifies the particular first class mail piece during

[[a]]the particular period of time, and wherein the first class mail piece tracking identifier comprises the destination tracking service type, the mailing subscriber identifier, the next available mailing identifier, and the delivery address identifier; and

relating the ~~unique~~first class mail piece identifier to ~~a particular mailer~~the user.

2. (Currently Amended) The outbound mail piece tracking method of Claim 1, said method further comprising:

encoding ~~said unique~~the first class mail piece identifier as a graphic symbology; and

fixing the ~~unique~~the first class mail piece identifier graphic symbology in a visual media.

3. (Currently Amended) The outbound mail piece tracking method of Claim 2, said method further comprising:

physically associating the ~~unique~~ first class mail piece identifier graphic symbology fixed in the visual media with the particular first class mail piece.

4. (Currently Amended) The outbound mail piece tracking method of Claim 2, said method further comprising:

receiving a plurality of electronic mail piece identifier representations, each electronic mail piece identifier representation corresponding to one of a plurality of ~~unique~~ first class mail piece identifiers; and

retrieving from the plurality of electronic mail piece identifier representations, an electronic mail piece identifier that matches the ~~particular unique~~ first class mail piece identifier that uniquely identifies the particular first class mail piece.

5.   (Currently Amended) The outbound mail piece tracking method of Claim 1 wherein the ~~unique~~ <u>first class</u> mail piece identifier <u>further</u> comprises:

~~a subscriber identifier;~~

~~a mailing identifier; and~~

~~a delivery address identifier, wherein the delivery address identifier is unique within a combination of the subscriber identifier and the mailing identifier~~<u>a service type</u>.

6.   (Original) The outbound mail piece tracking method of Claim 5 wherein the delivery address identifier is obtained from Internet-based postage delivery address information.

7.   (Currently Amended) The outbound mail piece tracking method of Claim 1<u>,</u> <u>the method further comprising</u>~~wherein the unique mail piece identifier comprises~~:

~~a service type identifier;~~

~~a subscriber identifier;~~

~~a mailing identifier; and~~

~~a delivery address identifier, wherein the delivery address identifier is unique within a combination of the service type identifier, the subscriber identifier and the mailing identifier~~

<u>encoding the first class mail piece identifier as a machine-readable bar code; and</u>

<u>printing the machine-readable bar code as a label for the particular first class mail piece</u>.

8.   (Currently Amended) A unique mail piece identifier graphic symbology, said unique mail piece identifier graphic symbology comprising:

<u>an encoded destination tracking service type;</u>

an encoded <u>mailing</u> subscriber identifier <u>corresponding to a mailing subscriber identifier assigned by a postal authority to a first class mail piece</u>

tracking provider, wherein the mailing subscriber identifier corresponds to an authorization by the postal authority for tracking first class mailings by the first class mail piece tracking provider;

an encoded mailing identifier, the encoded mailing identifier comprising an encoding of a mailing identifier; and

an encoded delivery address identifier corresponding to a delivery address to which a particular user of the first class mail piece tracking provider has requested destination tracking of a particular first class mail piece, wherein ~~the encoded delivery address identifier is unique within a combination of the encoded subscriber identifier and the encoded mailing identifier~~ a combination of the encoded destination tracking service type, the encoded mailing subscriber identifier, the encoded mailing identifier, and the encoded delivery address identifier corresponding to the delivery address, trackably identifies a particular first class mail piece during a particular period of time.

9.   (Currently Amended) The unique mail piece identifier graphic symbology of Claim 8, said unique mail piece identifier graphic symbology further comprising:

an encoded service type identifier; and

wherein the encoded delivery address identifier is trackably unique during a particular period of time, within a combination of the encoded service type identifier, the encoded mailing subscriber identifier and the encoded mailing identifier.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method of encoding a ~~unique~~ trackable first classs mail piece identifier as a graphic symbology, said method comprising:

receiving a request by a user to print computer-based postage for a particular first class mail piece for mailing the particular first class mail piece to a particular delivery address;

assigning [[an]]a tracking identifier to trackably correspond to the [[a
]]particular first class mail piece, wherein [[said]]the tracking identifier uniquely
trackably identifies the particular first class mail piece during a particular period of
time, [[and]]wherein [[said]]the tracking identifier comprises a mailing subscriber
identifier, a mailing identifier, and a delivery address identifier, wherein the
delivery address identifier is trackably unique within a combination of the
subscriber identifier and the mailing identifier during a period of time, and
wherein the mailing subscriber identifier corresponds to an authorization by the
postal authority for tracking first class mailings by a first class mail piece tracking
provider; and

encoding the tracking identifier as a graphic symbology.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of encoding a unique mail piece
identifier as a graphic symbology of Claim 10, said method further comprising:

relating the unique mail piece tracking identifier to a particular mailerthe
user.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of encoding a unique mail piece
identifier as a graphic symbology of Claim 11, said method further comprising:

wherein encoding the unique mail piece tracking identifier as a graphic
symbology comprises encoding the tracking identifier as a machine-readable bar
code.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method for tracking individual outbound first class
mail pieces, said method comprising:

receiving a postage printing request from a particular mailer, said postage
printing request comprising a request to mail a particular first class mail piece to
a delivery address, wherein the request from the user to mail the particular first
class mail piece comprises an indication by the user to provide tracking of the
particular first class mail piece;

determining a delivery address identifier corresponding to the delivery

address; and

formulating a ~~unique mail piece identifier, said unique mail piece identifier~~ ~~comprising: a subscriber identifier, a mailing identifier; and the delivery address,~~ ~~wherein the delivery address is unique within a combination of the subscriber~~ ~~identifier and the mailing identifier~~ next available first class mail piece identifier

for which a combination of a destination tracking service type, a mailing

subscriber identifier corresponding to an authorization by a governmental postal

authority for tracking first class mailings, the next available first class mail piece

identifier, and the delivery address identifier corresponding to the delivery

address, would trackably identify the particular first class mail piece during a

particular period of time.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 13, said method further

comprising:

encoding the ~~unique~~ next available first class mail piece identifier as a

graphic symbology.

15.   (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the graphic symbology is a

one-dimensional bar-code.

16.   (Original) The method of Claim 14, said method further comprising:

printing the graphic symbology.

17.   (Original) The method of Claim 16, said method further comprising:

printing postage indicium in accordance with the postage printing request.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method using a computer-based postage system

for printing a trackable first class mail piece identifier for a first class mail piece,

said [[system]]method comprising:

printing postage indicium for a particular first class mail piece in accordance with a postage printing request, wherein the postage printing request comprises a delivery address; and

printing a first class mail piece tracking identifier for the particular first class mail piece, wherein the first class mail piece tracking identifier comprises: a mailing subscriber identifier corresponding to an authorization by a governmental postal authority for tracking first class mailings, a mailing identifier, and a delivery address identifier corresponding to the delivery address, wherein the delivery address is trackably unique within a combination of the subscriber identifier and the mailing identifier during a particular period of time.

Claims 19-20.   Cancelled.

21.   (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-based postage system~~ method of Claim 18, wherein the postage indicium is printed on a first label and wherein the first class mail piece tracking identifier is printed on a second label.

22.   (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-based postage system~~ method of Claim 18, wherein the postage indicium and the first class mail piece tracking identifier are printed on an envelope.

23.   (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving a trackable first class mail piece identifier using a computer-based postage system, said [[system]]method comprising:

retrieving from a plurality of electronic first class mail piece identifier representations, an electronic first class mail piece identifier that matches a particular ~~unique~~first class mail piece identifier that ~~uniquely~~trackably identifies a particular first class mail piece during a particular period of time.

24.   (Currently Amended) A method for tracking individual outbound <u>first class</u> mail pieces using a computer-based postage system, said method comprising:

assigning a composite confirm identifier to a particular <u>first class </u>mail piece wherein said composite confirm identifier ~~uniquely~~<u>trackably</u> identifies the particular mail piece during a particular period of time; and

relating the ~~unique mail piece~~ composite confirm identifier<u> for the particular first class mail piece</u> to a particular mailer.